



## Second Sunday of Lent March 1, 2026

**St. John the Evangelist Church**  
**309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602 814-942-5503**

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

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 Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY - 8:30 AM TUESDAY - 8:30 AM**  
**WEDNESDAY - 6:00 PM**  
**THURSDAY - 8:30 AM FRIDAY - 8:30 AM**  
**SATURDAY - 4:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

### **March Prayer Intention of Pope Leo**

*For Disarmament and Peace*  
 Let us pray that nations move to effective  
 disarmament, particularly nuclear  
 disarmament and that world leaders  
 choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy  
 instead of violence.



### **NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS**

#### **LECTORS**

Sat. Mar. 7-4:00 PM - Maria Spayd, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Mar. 8-8:00 AM - Susan Podoletz, Mary Truesdale  
 Sun. Mar. 8-11:00 AM - Susanna Tomlinson, John Sukala

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. Mar. 7-4:00 PM - Abigail Hovance, Sadie Swope  
 Sun. Mar. 8-8:00 AM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Mar. 8-11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr

#### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. Mar. 7-4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Mar. 8-8:00 AM - Jennifer Helsley, Ginny Reeder  
 Sun. Mar. 8-11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy, Dolores Capriotti,  
 Ken Gorman, Bob Olson, NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

#### **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. Mar. 7-4:00 PM - Connie Baker, Dennis Moughemer,  
 Karen Moughemer, Jeremy Truscello  
 Sun. Mar. 8-8:00 AM - Jane Becker, John Becker, Ashley Greslick,  
 Mike Greslick  
 Sun. Mar. 8-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan, Wendy Campbell,  
 Lou Ann Clark, Mitchell Evans

#### **SACRISTAN**

Sat. Mar. 7-4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King  
 Sun. Mar. 8-8:00 AM - Ashley Greslick  
 Sun. Mar. 8-11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

#### **SCRIP**

Sat. Mar. 7-4:00 PM - Lori Baker, NOT FILLED  
 Sun. Mar. 8-8:00 AM - Amber Yasolsky, Heather Yasolsky  
 Sun. Mar. 8-11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**WHAT IS A PARISH MISSION?** In a few weeks, we will be celebrating our first parish mission! A parish mission can best be understood as a parish retreat! Its purpose is to revitalize the spiritual life of our parish, to encourage repentance and conversion in this season of Lent, to strengthen our commitment to Christian living, and to build a stronger sense of community. It is a time of grace and spiritual renewal!

**SAVE THE DATES!** We will be having a Parish Mission on the evenings of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, featuring Catholic speaker Paul Koleske. Paul is a contemporary Catholic Christian Inspirational Speaker, Musician, Composer & Recording Artist from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The theme of the mission is *"Igniting the Light of Christ Within You."*

**A PASTOR'S RETREAT!** With the seminarians on spring break, this is a good time for me to get away for my annual retreat. I ask your prayers for me at this time, that I might find renewal and strengthening of my spiritual life.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** Bible Study is canceled this coming week.

**ADULT ED IN LENT** – Our Sunday morning sessions will continue through the Lenten Season, as we will complete our discussions of the Creed and turn toward the deeper reflections on the Passion of the Lord.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** - To encourage greater participation for Stations, and to promote a greater love for the Holy Eucharist, our Friday evening devotions will begin at 5:00 with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with Stations of the Cross beginning at 5:30. Stations will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please consider joining us!

**FASTING AND ABSTINENCE:** Remember that the Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence from meat. Throughout the season of Lent, however, DAILY FASTING can strengthen our will, remind us of the hungers of the human family, and certainly can put us in mind of our hunger for God. Remember that Jesus fasted 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. Our fasting is closely related to our care for the poor: when I fast, another person must eat in my place!

**OPERATION RICE BOWL** - we are participating again this year in Operation Rice Bowl, which is a good companion to our Lenten prayer and fasting. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three pillars of the spiritual life.

**POPE LEO'S LENTEN MESSAGE!** Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life. Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

**A SUMMER TOUR!** I am organizing a 10 day tour this summer to experience the highlights of Britain, Ireland and Scotland. The estimated cost for a twin room is **\$3,850** per person, with an additional \$1,200 for airfare. This trip is scheduled from July 10 – 19, with departure from Dulles International Airport. For more details, go to the website for the [Britain and Ireland Highlights Tour | Grand European Travel](https://www.getours.com/tours/britain-ireland-highlights). <https://www.getours.com/tours/britain-ireland-highlights>. Please give me a call if you are interested!

### SAVE THE DATES!

**Adoration/Stations of the Cross:** Friday, March 6th- Adoration at 5pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 5:30pm

**Lent Communal Penance Service:** Sunday, March 15th at 4pm

**Spring Fling Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt:** Sunday, March 22nd after the 11am Mass in Fr. Bailey Hall

**Paul Koleske Parish Mission:** Sunday, March 22nd-Tuesday, March 24th-More details to come!

**Confirmation 2026:** Sunday, April 19th at 2pm at St. John's-All are welcome to attend!

**CMD 2026 COMMITMENT WEEKEND:** Today is Commitment Weekend for the 2026 Catholic Ministries Drive. Your sacrificial gift of prayer and treasure will make an immediate and lasting impact on our ministries that focus on evangelization, serving those in need and formation of our priests and deacons. During Lent, and throughout the year, we are challenged to renew our spiritual devotions and duties-and one of those holy duties is to support our Church. This year's theme, Sent to Serve, reminds us that, by virtue of our baptism, each of us has been Sent to Serve, entrusted with gifts that are meant to be shared for the good of others. If you didn't bring your pledge card to mass this weekend, or send it in this past week, please prayerfully consider making a donation this coming week or in the future. Our diocese's ministries need your support. All contributions received beyond our parish goal of \$37,300 will be used to fund parish projects such as Heating & Cooling and Tree Removal. Thank you for supporting the Catholic Ministries Drive and our diocese's vital ministries.

## Schedule for the Week of March 1st

### Sunday, March 1 - Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Mass for *Andrew Jr. & Florence Dancha*  
requested by Vicki Faretta

11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

### Monday, Mar. 2 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Grady Weyandt* requested by  
Linda Weyandt

### Tuesday, Mar. 3 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

### Wednesday, Mar. 4 - Lenten Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Henri Prosperi* requested by  
John Prosperi

### Thursday, Mar. 5 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Robert Ritchey* requested by  
Bob & Ginny Reeder

### Friday, Mar. 6 - Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Communion Service

### Saturday, Mar. 7 - Vigil of Third Sunday of Lent

3:15 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by  
Dave & Connie McManuels

### Sunday, March 8 - Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Mass for *Ida Prosperi* requested by  
John Prosperi

11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Please email any upcoming bulletin announcements to Diane Ryan at [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net) or call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503. Bulletin announcements need to be submitted by Wednesday to be included in the following weekend's bulletin.

### **LENT SCHEDULE FOR ST. JOHN'S:**

Adoration and Stations of the Cross: Fridays during Lent with Adoration beginning at 5:00pm and Stations beginning at 5:30pm

Lent Penance Service: Sunday, March 15th at 4:00pm

**MOTHER THERESA MINISTRY:** If you know of a parishioner not currently on our list that is in a nursing facility, hospital or homebound that would like to receive Communion at home, a visit or cards please text or call Mary Susick at 814-207-0185.

**GABRIEL PROJECT:** A Pro-life Ministry dedicated to helping moms and babies in the Altoona area with baby items as needed. The current needs are diapers size 5, 6,7, & 8 and Summer clothes (newborn to size 5T). Donations to purchase larger items are appreciated. Any mom needing assistance should call 814-440-1021.

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Our readings for this second Sunday of Lent offer us, as Christian stewards, the motivation to continue our 40-day journey towards deeper holiness.

The first reading from the book of Genesis describes God's call to Abram (who would later be called Abraham). God instructs Abram to leave his home and set out to a land that God had chosen for him. Abram's response is an ancient example of good stewardship. Instead of clinging to his comfortable way of life, to the only home he has ever known, he recognizes that all he has is a gift from God, puts his trust in God, and obeys. And God rewards him saying, "I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

To "be a blessing" is the true aim of a stewardship way of life. It is also an excellent way to live out the season of Lent. The sacrifices we take on, the spiritual disciplines we practice, and the extra acts of service we perform during this season – all give glory to God and transform our lives into a blessing for others. Let us rely on God's strength to aid us in our spiritual disciplines as we move through Lent. We will arrive at Easter with deeper holiness, as a blessing to God and others – and as better stewards of all God's gifts to us.

### February 14th/15th

Envelopes	\$	4,876.00
Loose Offerings	\$	364.00
Heating & Cooling	\$	328.00
Catholic Education	\$	10.00
Ash Wednesday	\$	45.00
Online Giving	\$	1,487.92
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,110.92</b>

**2026 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal: \$37,300**

**2025 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** are available upon request. Please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 to request your contribution statement to be mailed or picked up in the Parish Office. A contribution statement will not be mailed to you unless you call the office to request it. Thank you for your generous support!

**ENDING HUNGER WITH CRS RICE BOWL:** This Lent, our community will participate in CRS Rice Bowl—connecting our prayers, fasting and almsgiving to encounter God through our global family. We'll meet, pray for and learn from families in Ghana, Guatemala and Timor-Leste who are rising above the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Pick up your rice bowl in the Gathering Space. Then, visit [crsricebowl.org/join](http://crsricebowl.org/join) to share your Lenten prayer intentions. Please return Rice Bowls by Easter Sunday, April 5th. Thank you for supporting those in need.

### ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [giny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:giny.reeder@gmail.com) to add or remove someone from the prayer list. **Prayer list will be cleared in June.** **Contact Ginny or the office to have names added or kept on the list.** PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

All Garvey Manor Residents • Wilbur J. Arend  
Stephanie Baker • Barbara • Deb Bloom • Walt Bloom  
Idy Caporuscio • Cheryl Dennis • Ed Drexler  
Lois Dullinger • Charles Elder • Carol Field • Donald Free  
Donna Fornwalt • Mark Hastings • Melissa Horne  
Michael Horton • Tim Jimenez • Ray King  
Rosanne Krawick • Sally Langham • Mary Lauterbach  
Elsie MacCullagh • Dave Madden • Janet McNulty  
Adena Delozier Mertz • Mary Ann Barb Nagle •  
Mary O Fleming • Richard Olson  
Pat Rauch • Bette Richards • Dan Roberts  
Darlene Scarpaci • Anne Showalter  
Cathy Stapelfeld • Donna Taddy • Tammy  
Tim Temofonte • Rose Wargo • Lois Werfel  
Heather Yasolsky

**HOME WITH THE LORD:** Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:  
Marian Monios  
May she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

**ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL REGISTRATION:** St. Patrick School in Newry is now accepting registrations for students entering Pre-K through 8th grade for the 2026-27 school year. Our Catholic education combines faith and learning, with a low-student-to-teacher ratio, with dedicated faculty providing personalized attention to every child. Contact the school office at 814-695-3819 to learn more and schedule a private tour. We look forward to welcoming your family!

**BISHOP GUILFOYLE ACADEMY:** The Sound of Music! Join us for an inspiring evening of faith, family, and unforgettable music as Bishop Guilfoyle Academy proudly presents The Sound of Music! Experience the beloved story filled with hope, courage, and songs you know and love, performed by the talented students of Bishop Guilfoyle. At Mishler Theatre on Friday, March 6th & Saturday, March 7th at 7:30 PM. You can purchase tickets online at <https://mishlertheatre.vbotickets.com/events> or by calling the box office at (814) 944-9434.

**FISH FRY:** Our Lady of Lourdes Famous Fish Fry Serving every Friday during Lent including Good Friday Take out begins 3:30pm Eat in begins 4:30pm Cost \$16 Hand breaded/Fried Haddock or our delicious Baked Haddock Homemade Mac & Cheese or French Fries Pick 2- Stewed Tomatoes, Coleslaw, or Applesauce Dessert, Lemonade & Coffee included

### FAITH FORMATION NEWS

**March 1st-No Class**

**March 8th-Class**

**March 15th-No Class-Confirmation Mentor Meeting after 11am Mass in the gym**

**March 22nd-Class**

**March 22nd-Easter Egg Hunt/Spring Fling Brunch after 11am Mass in Gym**

**March 29th-No Class-Palm Sunday**

**April 5th-No Class-Easter Sunday**

**April 12th-Class**

**April 19th-No Class- Confirmation at St. John's at 2pm**

**All public school students entering kindergarten through 11th grade should be registered with the Faith Formation Program.**

**All catholic school students entering 2nd grade and 9th-11th grade should be registered with the Faith Formation Program to prepare for Sacraments.**

*If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Diane Ryan at 814-942-5503 or email [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net).*

### **EASTER EGG HUNT AND SPRING FLING BRUNCH:**

Please join us on Sunday, March 22nd after the 11am Mass in the gym for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Fling Brunch. Children 13 and under are invited to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt and everyone of all ages is invited to join us for a Spring Fling Brunch with soup, sandwiches, salad, and lots of sweets! We will also have crafts and games for the children in the gym after the Egg Hunt. In case of inclement weather, the Easter Egg Hunt will be moved indoors. Please join us! All are welcome!

**SCRIP:** We recently received a check for \$5,000 from our Scrip profits at St. John's! Want to help us increase that profit even more? Consider buying Scrip cards for your gas, groceries, restaurants, home improvement projects and more! Make buying and using Scrip a habit. Shopping with gift cards is something you can make part of your routine. Buy a gas gift card every time you need to fill up your tank. Soon, you'll always remember to use gift cards—without even thinking about it. And you will be helping the church each time! Have questions still? Stop by the Scrip table at any weekend mass and our volunteers will be happy to help answer any questions.

**FISH FRY:** The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will have their Annual Lenten Fish Fry Lunch all Fridays during Lent, except Good Friday. Cost is \$12 for a fish sandwich, mac & cheese and coleslaw. Drive thur Cathedral Alley Door Pick up from 10:30am-1pm. Orders of 10 or more will be delivered if you call ahead at 814-944-4603.